

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Zaltron, U.S. Patent 6,898,824. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that at least one of the first and second latching elements is deformed to permit disengagement of the actuating element from the housing element. In Zaltron, neither the slots 9 and 10 in the tube 5 or the pin 12 are deformed to disengage the movable member 2 from the tube 5. The pin 12 is rigidly coupled to the movable member 2 by an oval head 16 of the pin engaging a seat 17 of the body or movable member 2, see specification at col. 3, lines and FIG. 7. To disengage the pin 12 from the slots 9,10, the pin 12 must first be unscrewed from the oval head 16 and then withdrawn from the body 2 and the tube 5. Neither the slots or the pin are deformed during disengagement. Zaltron not only fails to show disengagement by deformation, according to the claim, but shows an assembly of parts that can only be disengaged by disassembly. In other words, it is impossible to disengage the body 2 from the tube 5 shown in Zaltron by deformation. Accordingly, Zaltron fails to disclose at least one of the first and second latching elements deformed to permit the disengagement of the actuating element from the housing element as recited in claim 1. For this reason, this rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claims 2 and 4-7 were rejected as claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Since claims 2 and 4-7 depend directly or indirectly from and contain all the limitations of amended claim 1, they are felt to overcome the obviousness rejection in the same manner as amended claim 1.

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This amendment is believed to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the Examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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